

# Judge decides school funding lawsuit against S.D. schools

Tanya Kapoor  
Editor-in-Chief

Although O'Gorman has received a new school building, schools around the state recently faced a setback in acquiring better buildings, programs and salaries. Circuit Judge Lori Wilbur denied schools

extra money in a lawsuit that claimed that the State of South Dakota improperly funded its schools.

"We won on all counts, which really comes as no surprise," said Gov. Mike Rounds.

The trial began in September 2008 when parents and school districts said that schools were not receiving enough funding

to provide students an adequate education. Attorney General Mr. Larry Long and a team of attorneys defended the state.

The Judge's decision is a proposed decision. Mr. Scott Abdallah, the lawyer for the parents, has until May 29 to add objections or additions to the Judge's

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MELISSA RUSHING / KNIGHT SCROLL

Woman tells story of O'G land, Sioux Falls' history see page 8

## Governor signs law banning smoking

Karla Zutz  
Staff Writer

The smoking ban, SB83, has been passed in the State House and State Senate and has been signed by Gov. Mike Rounds.

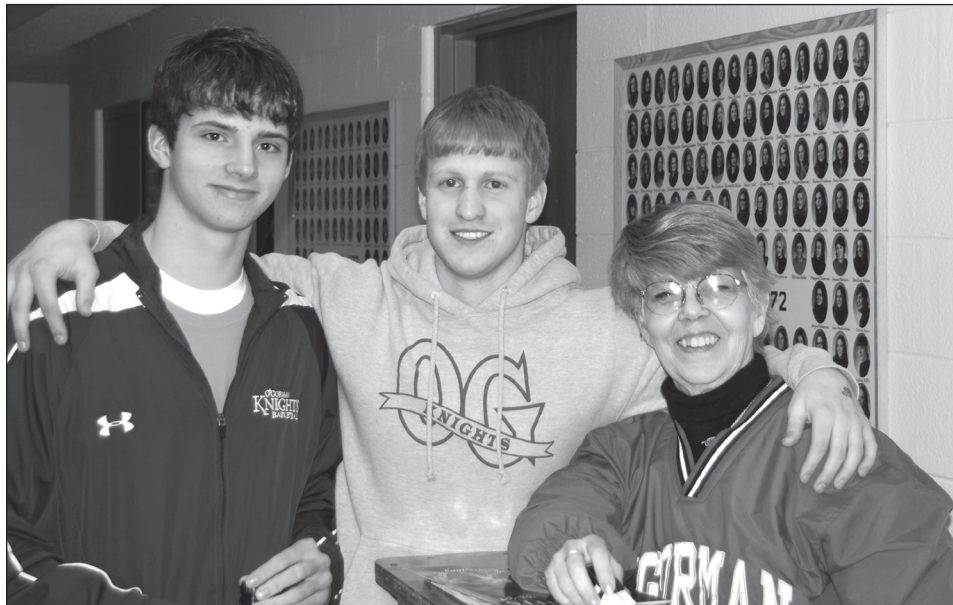
A similar smoking ban, HB1240, is already effective, making smoking illegal in only certain public places. People caught smoking in a prohibited area could be charged with a \$25 fine.

TATU (Teens Against Tobacco Use) was at the State Senate in February along with the American Cancer Society rallying for the smoking ban.

What really pushed the representatives to vote the way they did may not have been their personal beliefs.

"It boiled down to the support of my constituents," said Rep. Shantel Krebs (R-Sioux Falls). "Eighty percent of my constituents

See Ban page 2



KNIGHT SCROLL

Taylor Kneip and Jarvis McCoy stand with Mrs. Reed during a basketball game.

## Longtime theology teacher to retire after 08-09 year

Becky Jarding  
Domenica Gilbert

As the school year comes to an end, so does the career of a famous and beloved teacher. After 35 years of teaching, Mrs. Karin Reed is retiring.

Despite displaying mixed emotions at the confirmation of her departure, Reed

knows her retirement is the right decision for her.

After moving from California back to Sioux Falls, Reed lived with her mother for her first years back home. Now, she is returning the favor to her mother, whose health is not in the best conditions, by allowing her to move in with her.

"My mother is 95 years old and is unhappy living in a nursing home," said Reed. "She is my priority."

Although she has found a family at O'Gorman, she cannot neglect her family at her home.

"You only get one mom in a lifetime," said Reed.

See Reed page 7

## School adopts stricter policies with violations in parking lot

Katie Schwebach  
Staff Writer

"Will the owner of the following car please come to the office—a green 1992 Honda Accord, license plate number 1UU 258?"

A similar phrase is commonly heard over the intercom. With any luck, only one car will be called, compared to the average four. Because of construction, parking problems have worsened.

"It seems like people are getting here earlier and earlier to get a good spot," said sophomore Meg Townsend. "I come at the same time as I did last year, and I have to park farther away."

The illegal parking zones for students include fire lanes, any spots facing the building, spots away from the building between the signs and flags that say Staff Parking and anything labeled Staff Parking or Coach Parking. However, other parking spots are accessible.

"There are at least 25 spots available in the main lot every day," said Vice Principal Mrs. Joan Mahoney.

Spots that seem empty at 8:00 are reserved for later arrivers. Many teachers, aides and volunteers do not arrive until midway through the school day.

At the public schools, a parking monitor

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## Investigating lockdowns ten years after Columbine

Tanya Kapoor  
Melissa Rushing

Ten years ago, the nation experienced the deadliest school shootings in a high school. The tragedy at Columbine High School, which resulted in 13 deaths, spurred schools around the nation to modify their lockdown

procedures.

"Prior to Columbine, lockdowns were not strongly practiced, and they were not even recognized nationally to ensure school safety," said Ms. Melissa D. Reeves, News Media Specialist of Jefferson County Public Schools (the school system that oversees Columbine). "After Columbine,

lockdowns became a critical part of school security. Now, schools can communicate with law enforcement and surrounding schools faster about any dangers on campus with a coordinated lockdown procedure."

At O'Gorman, administration communicates with Officer Todd Runyan (the school resource

officer) and Superintendent Dr. Tom Lorang. The administration has the authority to declare a lockdown.

Students and staff realized the stress involved in such a decision when the school went into lockdown a year ago.

See Lockdowns page 11



# From the adViser

Now for something completely different. Well, sort of.

First, let's get the formalities out of the way. Thank you to all of my journalism students for another year of dedicated news writing and reporting.

I am once again blown away by the effort you have shown in the numerous stories you have written and reported on here at O'Gorman High School.

Each member of the staff this year has shown extreme dedication, and I thank each and every one of you for your devotion to the *Knight Scroll*.

Special thanks goes out to *Scroll* editor Tanya Kapoor. She has gone above and beyond the call of duty this year with her in-depth reporting.

From her articles dealing with school funding to her piece on the consolidation of Cathedral school, she has brought the level of journalism here at O'Gorman to an entirely new level.

Likewise, I want to say thanks to my two year members Melissa Rushing and Jameson Goetz.

Both Melissa and Jameson have been instrumental this



Jason A. Van Engen  
*Knight Scroll Adviser*

year in being mentors for the new journalists. They have shown the time and dedication required to put out a fine monthly publication.

It is the hard work and dedication shown by these students that will help to cement the success of the *Scroll* for years to come.

Rather than dwell on events of this past year, I thought I would look ahead and make a few predictions for the 2009-2010 school year. Here goes:

1) Sophomore Service Day will be canceled due to 'inclement' weather.

2) Tony Romo will lead the

Cowboys to a Super Bowl victory... or a playoff win – I'll take either at this point.

3) The class of 2010 will have a spellbinding time in English IV. (Get ready!)

4) Mrs. Mahoney will leave O'G and become a full time parking lot attendant.

5) Mr. Whiting, Mr. Garrison and I will begin a weekly challenge to see who can find the most dress code violators. Come one, come all. There are plenty of detentions to go around!

6) O'G will open a new atrium for all of the random birds that have nested during the foyer construction.

7) Because of its undisputed popularity, blue paneling will be placed in all classrooms.

8) The *Knight Scroll* will go online!?

9) O'G teachers will once again dominate the homecoming danceoff with a stirring rendition of Riverdance.

10) The Twins will say goodbye to the Metrodome with a World Series win!

Again, many thanks, and have a great summer! V

## Ban

Continued from page 1

voted for the smoking ban to pass, so I was representing the majority."

Others' personal beliefs took a major role in their votes.

"I believe that smoking is a call of the business owner, not the government," said Sen. Gene Abdallah (R-Sioux Falls), who opposed the ban. "Owners can ban smoking without the state passing laws."

With the ban almost into effect, some might wonder how this will affect current smokers.

"When South Dakota increased the tax on cigarettes, there was a decrease in the number sold," said Krebs.

The smoking ban is meant to be for the health of non-smokers.

"If it is an inconvenience, the smoker may quit," said TATU director Mrs. Donna Carlson. "[Smoking] is a matter of choice, but it protects the non-smoker from second-hand smoke."

But according to junior Pat Brende, there are some who will still suffer from the effects of smoke.

"The only people that will not benefit from the smoking bill are the owners of cigar bars and smoking lounges who fought to get an exception to the bill," said Brende.

Abdallah said that the smoking ban will only force smokers to smoke outdoors and to stay in their homes or even recreation areas.

Smoking has been an ongoing issue for years.

Some wonder why a ban did not come earlier.

Krebs said that a ban has been a topic of conversation for a while.

A ban has become more of a pressing issue because of more medical and scientific data on second-hand smoke.

However, some believe that banning smoking hurts smokers' personal rights.

"In my opinion, it is taking away another right of the individual," said Abdallah.

Other issues such as general public health may lead some to think otherwise.

"As a Republican, I believe the government should not control businesses," said Krebs. "But data speaks louder when people start being diagnosed with illnesses or death."

Carlson said that places such as bowling alleys and restaurants with bars in them will be available to more people because of this ban.

The bill goes into effect starting July 1, 2009.

# Scroll Staff

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**Staff Writers**  
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J.R. Stassi  
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Nicole Scheier  
Katie Schwebach  
JR Stassi  
Caitlin Woodard  
Olga Zamulko

**Guest Columnist**  
Joe Scholten

**Adviser**  
Jason A. Van Engen

**Contact**  
Email:  
ogscroll@gmail.com  
jvanengen@sfcss.org

Address:  
Knight Scroll  
SFCS  
3201 S Kiwanis Ave.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

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## Weekly theology seminar empowers, sparks debates

Shilpa Chandran  
Opinion Editor

Advanced Theological Seminar, or ATS, has long been a senior's guide to truly understanding the Catholic faith.

An advanced apologetics class, ATS takes place on Wednesday nights from six to nine.

During these three hours, students discuss various subjects of the Church.

"It allows the students to delve in depth into apologetics," said Ms. Michelle Shields, who teaches the ATS class. "They research for a while and then do presentations about different topics."

Different areas discussed include the existence of God, Theology of the Body and the afterlife.

Because of students' divided viewpoints, spirited debates do tend to break out.

"With the debates, I do not think it is students just wanting to make trouble," said Shields. "I think it is because they truly want to know the truth. Our class is in a setting where people can question in a safe environment and get to the truth."

While the outcome is not always a singular perspective, there is a sense of resolution.

"The debates really helped everyone learn about their own beliefs and where their beliefs stand," said senior Peter Meyer.



PATRICK W. LINSNEMEYER / KNIGHT SCROLL

Students discuss the Theology of the Body at ATS Wednesday night.

Students involved in the class make a commitment to this course because they take time out of their evenings to converse about religion.

"The students are participatory and want to get into a deeper discussion," said Shields.

The class allows the students to become critical thinkers as they study doctrine and develop a sense of independence and discipline.

"I hope [students] understand that

every question about the Church has an answer," said Shields. "It is just a matter of using your resources."

As an instructor, Shields has her own opinion of teaching ATS.

"I really enjoy it. The fact that the students want to come in the evening really invigorates me," said Shields. "There will be some days where I feel tired coming into ATS, but the students make it so I have energy when I leave."

## Saint Rita strived to be holy model of purity

Christina Engeman  
Faith Co-Editor

St. Rita was put into an arranged marriage despite her wishes to enter a convent. Her husband Paolo Mancini was rich, and despite abuse and affairs, St. Rita remained married to him for 18 years.

As St. Rita's husband neared the end of his life, he changed his ways, but because of his conversion, his allies murdered him. Before he died, he confessed all his wrongdoings to St. Rita and the Church, and she forgave him.

Because of Mancini's murder, St. Rita's sons, Paolo and Giangiacomo, wanted to seek revenge on the men who killed their father. St. Rita turned to God in prayer and asked him to take her sons' lives instead of letting them do something so terrible. According to religious history, St. Rita's prayers were answered; the two boys died a few years later due to natural causes.

St. Rita now had the opportunity to join the convent, but she was not allowed to enter at first because she was a widow and not a virgin. She was eventually let into the convent after reconciling with her husband's murderers—a task the monastery assigned her upon entering.

The miraculous part of St. Rita's story is how she literally entered the monastery. It is said that the nuns were all asleep and the doors locked, and she was transported through the gates through the intercession of St. John the Baptist, St. Augustine and St. Nicholas of Tolentino. St. Rita lived at the monastery until she died.

St. Rita's feast day is May 22 and she is associated with roses and figs.

### Parking

Continued from page 1

is on duty, and students must often park in surrounding residential areas.

"O'Gorman students do not realize that they do not walk as far as students at the public schools do," said Mahoney.

When illegally parked, students will be asked to move their cars. The penalty for parking in a fire lane is an automatic ticket because it is a safety hazard.

"We are exploring adding parking fines for the next school year," said Mahoney.

Construction is moving forward, and with that, parking will improve.

"The number of parking spaces in the north lot resulted in a net add of 19 spaces," said Jeff T. Fiegen, President of the Fiegen Construction Company.

Despite this, danger persists.

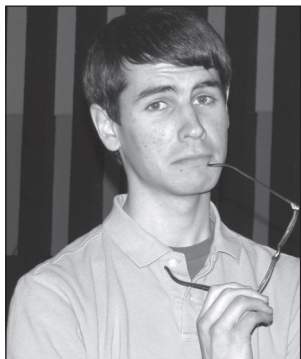
"This year seems more congested," said Townsend. "I have had numerous close calls."

Nonetheless, Mahoney is hopeful for the future.

"We should have more parking than before, especially around the new Performing Arts Center," said Mahoney.

## We should trust God's plan for salvation

Joe Scholten  
Guest Columnist



Life is change. While this is true at any stage in life, it is especially evident now as we draw close to the end of the year (24 days left as I write this article!).

For us humans, change is both natural and a bit scary.

This is why our Father gives us both transformation and consistency in the natural world.

The seasons are constantly changing, for instance, but each year always brings the same four seasons.

God gives us lives of change

to teach us to rely on Him.

It is imperative to entrust ourselves to God's care during times of change.

"Trust" and "faith" are nearly synonymous; in trusting the Lord, we truly live the virtue of faith.

How exactly are we to live out this trust?

Well, I cannot say it any better than Reggae hero (and convert to Christianity) Bob Marley: "Don't worry, be happy."

Simple to say, but tricky to do. Thinking "I'm not going to worry" at the start of the day is much easier than consciously praying, "I entrust this to You, Lord," when faced with an impossible test or the loss of a friend.

However, as impossible as it may seem, the God of Love asks us for this kind of faith.

God will provide for our needs if we choose to trust in Him as our Father.

Imagine you are five years old going on your big summer

vacation.

As your parents buckle you in with your Elmo doll, crackers and Cheez Whiz, you have no idea how to get to grandma's house or how long it is going to take.

In your five-year-old innocence, however, you trust that dad's driving will get you there and that mom will not let you go hungry along the way.

The road may be bumpy, and sometimes we cannot see ahead through the rain.

No matter what, though, we simply must allow God to be God.

As strange as His driving may seem, I would still pick the King of Heaven over myself as a guide to eternal life.

We will not always understand why He does what He does, why He lets families fail and good people suffer.

It would be untrue to say that the disciples at Calvary fully comprehended why their Teacher hung on the Cross.

Sure enough, however,

the Cross allowed for the Resurrection.

After a night of failure, the Apostles did not understand why the risen Lord wanted them to throw their nets down one more time.

Nevertheless, the men obeyed and were soon rewarded. Trusting does not require us to have all the answers.

Trust in God does require that we speak to God and relate to Him our challenges.

Our faith in God grows out of our relationship with Him, and vice versa.

As we move into summer, college, and whatever changes God has in store for us, let us remember to remain faithful to God our Father and talk with Him about the events of life.

Every change, no matter how daunting, is an opportunity for us to practice faith.

After all, He is the One holding the roadmap.



# Close Up students explore Washington, D.C.

Ally Leedom  
Staff Writer

Students ventured to Washington, D.C., last month to take part in the Close Up Program.

Close Up is primarily an educational program for high school students; the main purpose of this program is to teach students how to play a role in government through citizenship.

Leading the trip were history teachers Mr. Steve Krier and Mr. Doug Lindner. The trip was open to sophomores through seniors, but the trip was quite cost prohibitive. Students raised money with magazine sales and dress down days.

“We raised money for this trip for a couple years,” said junior Andrea Petersen.

“One of our biggest fundraisers was selling the data matches earlier this year.”

There were many favorite sites throughout the D.C. area.

“I enjoyed everything, but especially Ford’s Theater, Gettysburg and Arlington Cemetery,” said Lindner. “You can honestly feel the history when you are visiting those sites.”

Many students were excited to go.

“My friends and I could not stop talking about how pumped we were to go. We kept planning what we wanted to do on our free day!” said Petersen.

Government is not the only aspect that drew students to the program.

“A lot of the people who are signed up to go were just looking to have a good time and experience something new,” said Petersen.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The close-up history trip students pose in front of the World War II Memorial.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Rocket team members Caleb Jamison, Aaron Culey and Captain Josh McQuade work with their rocket as Dong Yun Shin, another member, photographs.

## Rocketry qualifies for nationals again with high qualifying score

Becky Jarding  
Activity Co-Editor

The rocket team will soon be competing against the top 100 teams in the country at the Team America Rocketry Challenge.

On April 2, 2009, the rocket team qualified for the national competition by achieving a qualifying score of 9.34. This score will allow the team to attend nationals for the second year in a row.

Rocket team members junior Joshua McQuade (Captain), senior Dong Yun Shin, senior Jonathan Oliver, freshmen Caleb Jamison, Matthew Dondelinger and Aaron Culey, along with Coach Ms. Jane Schnell, will all be flying to Virginia for the competition which takes place from May 15 to May 17.

According to Schnell, this year, the team expects to improve upon last year’s results.

“Last year was our first year at nationals,” said Schnell. “We were so excited, and we went to compete and see what it was all about. Now, because of our experience, we are hoping to do

“It’s hard [at Nationals] because it’s the best 100 teams from the nation. Anything can happen.”

- Joshua McQuade

better this time.”

Rocket team will be competing against teams from 29 states and the District of Columbia to try and win not only scholarship money but also the opportunity to contend against European students at the international air show in Paris.

The competition will be challenging partly due to its unpredictability.

“It’s hard out there because it’s the best 100 teams from the nation,” said McQuade, who, along with Shin, attended the competition last year as well. “Anything can happen.”

However, the team plans on doing the same thing at nationals that it has done all season. Part of this plan is to ensure that the egg placed in the rocket, representative of an astronaut, reaches the ground without visible damage.

“Our basic strategy is the same for the whole season: build and design a rocket that you think is going to be closest to a height of 750 feet tall and stay in the air for 45 seconds,” said Schnell. “And you also have to bring your egg home safely.”

## Shadowing inspires students, helps them with future endeavors

Olga Zamulko  
Staff Writer

Deciding between potential career options for the future is easier thanks to ShadowEd.

“No matter where you go, you want a job that you will love to do,” said ShadowEd Coordinator Mrs. Linda Rodman. “ShadowEd gives you a glimpse into many job opportunities.”

This program was first introduced by the Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce approximately ten years ago with the goal of bringing schools and local businesses under one program. Now, more than 250 occupations are available to shadow, and about 375 high school students participate.

A great part of ShadowEd is that students are not required to take any certain classes before they

can shadow someone. The only limitation is whether or not the career is available.

ShadowEd provides students with an opportunity to experience a job firsthand, talk to specialists and get beneficial, one-on-one information. Senior Haleigh Kolb shadowed a veterinarian at Dale Animal Hospital.

“They were not afraid of me diving right in and having me help them,” said Kolb. “They also took the time to explain things and made sure I understood what it means to be a vet.”

To sign up, students need to first meet with a counselor.

“You must be in good standing. That means have good grades, attendance, and behavior,” said Guidance Counselor Mrs. Donna Carlson. “When you go out, you represent O’Gorman.”

## Dress down days serve to fund school activites, projects in unique way

Nicole Scheier  
Staff Writer

Although a portion of funds received from the Magazine Drive is allocated to the activities budget, student organizations often need additional financial aid throughout the year. To raise this money, the administration allows certain student groups to host dress down days.

On one Friday a month, a different activity holds a dress down day to raise money. In the interest

of fairness, most organizations only host one dress down day a year, but there are exceptions. Rocketry and the Close-Up History Trip, in addition to some other groups, sponsor dress down days every other year. Campus Ministry, on the other hand, hosts about two dress down days a year.

“The hardest thing is to decide what groups get to hold the dress down days,” said Principal Mr. Kyle

See Dress Down page 5





SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tyler Jacobsen, Whitney Hartzel, Shilpa Chandran and Maggie Lawler qualified for nationals in interp.

## Interpers venture to Nationals in Birmingham this summer

J.R. Stassi  
Cameron Johnson

The stars of O'Gorman oral interpretation are going to be falling on Birmingham, Ala., for another national tournament. Last year, the tournament was held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The national tournament is called the National Forensics League National Speech and Debate Tournament. The team is

not only going to compete but is also going to have a little fun.

Birmingham has many attractions including the McWayne Center; other attractions include The Historic Alabama Theater, Alabama Adventure theme park, The Birmingham Zoo and malls.

Qualifiers this year include Maggie Lawler in Original Oratory, Tyler Jacobsen and Whitney Hartzell in Humor, Shilpa Chandran in Drama and Nick Sideras in Student Congress.

These five needed to get through the qualifying tournament in which the students competed with other schools in the Rushmore South Dakota District. At the end of 2 long days of competition – students compete in a final round in which the students with the best cumulative score qualify.

"It is very stressful, and there is always a lot of talent!" said Head Coach Ms. Teresa Fester.

See Interp page 10

## Dress Down

Continued from page 4

Groos.

In order to decide which organizations get the dress down days, the administration reviews requests from faculty members heading the student groups.

If a new activity or organization is brought forward, the administration analyzes its budget to decide whether or not it needs more funds.

The average amount charged to students for a dress down day is \$2 to \$3, but sometimes the price can reach \$5, depending on what the money is benefiting.

Dress down days tend to be only once a month so the students can afford to purchase them.

Groos said that the administration wants to avoid financially burdening students.

According to student ambassador Kae Januschka, the idea of using dress down days to receive funds is pretty ingenious.

"It helps benefit the school," said Januschka.

The proceeds from the student ambassador dress down day helped the group purchase t-shirts and sponsor certain events throughout the year, including freshmen orientation.

Dress down days can also be used as a tool for obtaining

necessary items for special events such as the senior service project.

This year, the intent of seniors' project was to create hygiene kits for the St. Francis House.

Students who brought hygiene products to help the seniors with their service project were allowed to dress down for the day.

Public schools also struggle to find financial aid for their activities and organizations as well.

"Each organization has to come up with their own ideas," said Preston Mosser, a senior at Washington High School.

At Washington, some groups sell ice cream at lunch to raise money, or they have bake sales. Mosser said that occasionally students have dress up days in which they wear hats or costumes.

During first period, students of that organization or activity collect money and distribute stickers to the students that choose to participate.

The stickers are proof that the students contributed. This is similar to O'Gorman's method of ensuring that those who chose to participate actually contributed.

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Kevin Rance and Elliott Czarnecki prepare to play on the tennis court.

KNIGHT SCROLL

# Boys tennis hopes to establish self as leading team this year

Maegen Lipetzky  
Faith Co-Editor

After dominating its early-season opponents, the boys tennis team is looking to cement itself as the top team in the state.

“We had a very good first half of the season,” said junior Kevin Rance. “I think that we are going to have to play even better [during] the rest of the season because our schedule only gets tougher from here.”

The Knights, who have yet to lose this season, finish their season by competing against three-time defending state champions Rapid City Stevens on three consecutive weekends before the state tournament, which takes place May 21 through the 23 in Sioux Falls.

“We would definitely love to beat Stevens this year,” said Rance. “I do

not think that O’Gorman boys tennis has beaten them since 2005, so it would definitely be great if we could beat them this year.”

“We are going to have to play even better the rest of the season because our schedule only gets tougher from here.”

- Kevin Rance

Although he quickly ranked beating Stevens as one of the teams major goals for this season, Rance was not so quick to ignore other teams as lesser competition than Stevens.

“Lincoln has a very good team this year, some might say they could beat Stevens,” said Rance. “I guess we will just have to see about that, but I think the main thing for our team this year would be to take every match very seriously because there are a lot of good teams; if we do that, I think we will be very successful.”

Some of the top teams thus far into the season, not including the Knights, are Rapid City Central, Rapid City Stevens, Sioux Falls Lincoln and Sioux Falls Roosevelt.

One of the major highlights for the rest of the season for the Knights is the “Dakota Cup: Knights under the Lights” match against Sioux Falls Lincoln. Another major happening for the Knights will occur when they host Rapid City Stevens and Rapid City Central on Friday, May 15.

## New mascot could add new spirit to activities

Rachel Beranek  
Staff Writer

Although a school mascot has never been a part of O’Gorman’s past, it could boost school spirit in the future.

“It could be a lot of fun,” said Mr. Steve Kueter, Activities Director. “It would add to the spectators’ fun.”

“I think it would be entertaining,” said Matt Barthel, junior.

Lincoln High School has had a patriot as their mascot since the 1990s.

“I think the mascot helps with school spirit,” said Mrs. Valerie Fox, Principal at Lincoln.

O’Gorman would need a committee of students and faculty to get a mascot. Cheerleaders choose the mascot at Lincoln. Fox said that the school typically picks one person to serve as its mascot, based upon volunteers.

However, there are a few restrictions.

“[Mascots] must have the same academic standing as other athletes and must have had no office referrals,” said Fox.

Barthel thinks that the mascot position should be open to both males and females.

Kueter said that any activities would be open for an O’Gorman mascot to attend; it just depends upon the chosen person and what commitments he or she could make.

Fox said that the Lincoln mascot only attends some basketball games and the football games as well as some pep rallies.

Kueter said that while a mascot seems to be an overall good idea, the mascot would need to stay out of the way and off the fields and courts.

“The biggest challenge is with the visiting teams,” said Fox.

Also, there may be some difficulty in getting a student into a knight outfit. Perhaps the student body could get creative and find a way to make a mascot work for the O’Gorman Knights.

### Upcoming Events

May 7 - Boys Tennis vs. Lincoln

May 9 - Track at Warrior Invite (Howard Wood Field)

May 11 - Girls Golf City Meet

May 11 - Boys Tennis vs. Yankton

May 14 - Girls Golf at Brandon Valley Invite



## Bad weather not enough to slow track team as students make their way to state competition

Maegen Lipetzky  
Faith Co-Editor

The uncooperative weather early this season has not held back the track team. After missing out on practice time and a meet because of snow, the team lost some key preparation for the city meet. However, the track team still pulled through and finished the meet with high placers.

“The team competed very well at the city meet. We were missing key people that night but still finished with some outstanding performances,” said Head Coach Mr. Doug Lindner.

In order to prepare for the city meet, the

coaches modify the workouts. Members of the team are more focused on specialty events and are relieved from heavy workloads.

“This way, we hope the kids are prepared and rested for the big competitions,” said Lindner.

After the city meet, there was a good number of students who qualified for the state meet. However, this is not the only chance to qualify. The list of qualifiers changes with each meet as more team members improve their performance and relay times. By the time the state meet arrives, there should be more team members added to the qualifiers list.



# Girls golf hopes to take another swing at state

Katie Schwebach  
Olga Zamulko

The girls golf team anticipates that hard work and friendships will bring a 2009 state championship.

The team has three typical goals each year: to win City, to win Conference and to finish top three in state. For the past couple of years, those goals have been reached. However, the team has a different target in sight this year.

"Their goal is to try to win the state title this year and beat Brookings," said Head Coach Mr. Rod Garrison.

The Brookings Bobcats are defending the title, having won the past four consecutive years. Last year, the team placed second in the meet. The Knights' last state title was in 2000 with team leader Kim Kolb.

The Brookings Invite will be held May 5, beginning at noon. The state meet will be held from May 18-19 in Brandon, beginning at 9:00 AM.

"Brookings is our toughest competition, but we have a solid team," said junior Whitney Wheeler.

Wheeler has played for the team since her freshman year along with twin sister Megan.

"It is really competitive [between us]. If she beats me, she gets bragging rights," said Whitney Wheeler.

This demonstrates how close the team is in both scores and friendships.

"We all get along really well and have fun on our golf trips," said Wheeler.

"Team chemistry is pretty easygoing, but we work hard," said senior Bridgid Hurley.

This year's focus has been having more practices than any other school, no matter the weather conditions. At these practices, players concentrate on areas of course management, club selection and putting.

Garrison said that the players have a workman-like attitude in which the team comes first. The girls constantly practice to not only improve their personal scores but also to assist the team's score.

Another advantage for the team is its experience. Five players from last year's state tournament



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Varsity golfer Whitney Wheeler practices her golf swing.

return to the roster.

Wheeler hopes the team will better control their nerves on the second day at state when scores are typically higher. She also strives to be in the top ten of the meet.

No matter the pressure or the

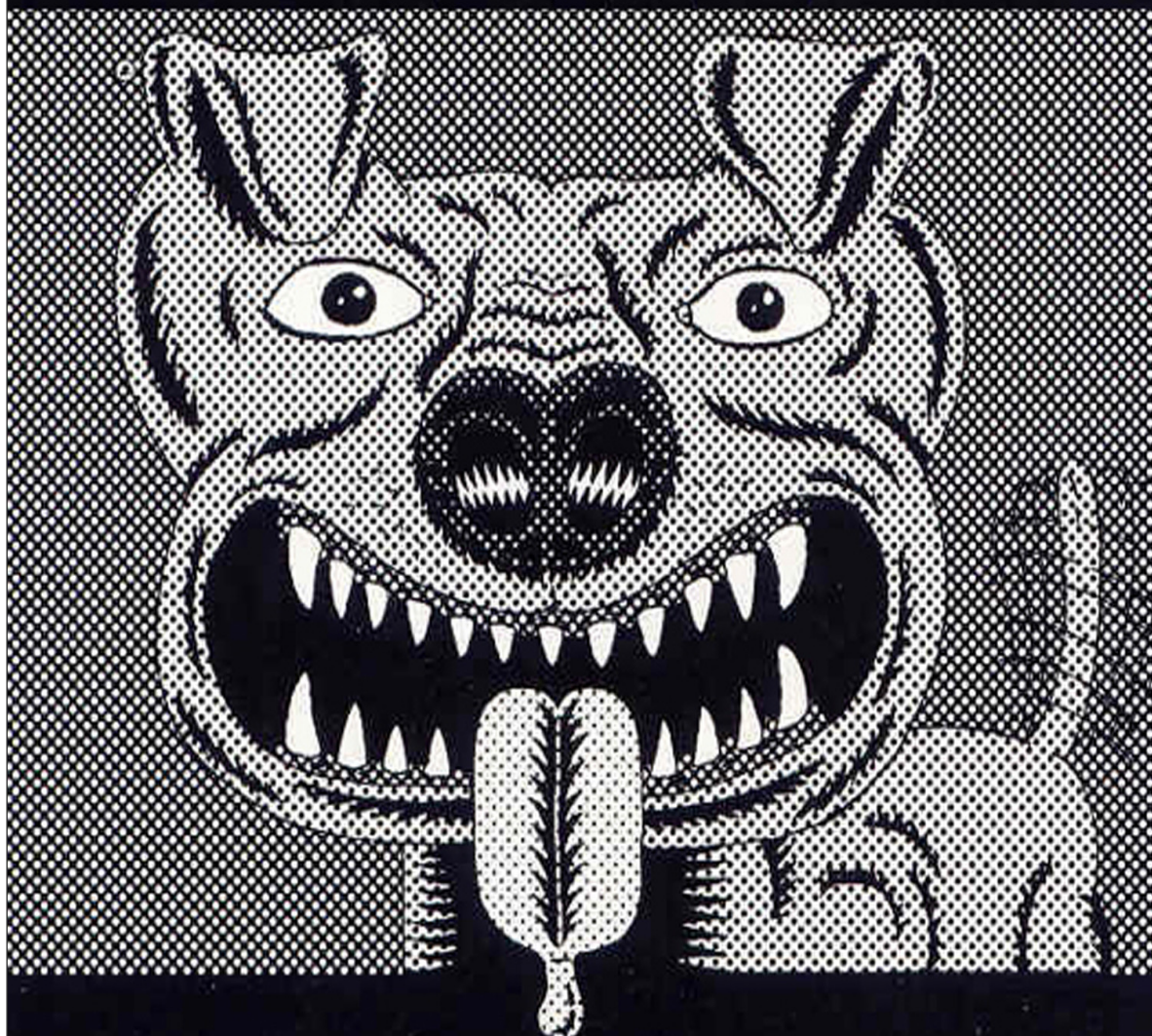
intensity, the girls still have time for the love of the game.

"I enjoy being outside and meeting new people," said Hurley. "I like how every time it is not the same. It gives you new challenges."

Garrison, who has been coaching the team since 1984, still finds joy in the sport as well.

"I like to see the kids improve in their games," said Garrison.

## MOST STUDENTS PREFER TO KISS NON-SMOKERS \*



\*some don't care what they kiss.

## Reed

Continued from page 1

Regardless of her retirement, she will still remain involved at the school.

Reed said that she will maintain her active role in the school's activities.

She plans to continue attending school functions such as sporting events and theater productions.

"You will still see me at all the games taking tickets," said Reed. "Anything they do, I come to see the kids."

Reed is an O'Gorman graduate and has been a part of the school since her graduation in 1963. Her graduation photograph can still be viewed outside of the cafeteria.

"If you look at the graduation pictures, I am the one who looks like a chipmunk," said Reed.

As with any educator, Reed has her own unique teaching style.

However, hers is said to be anything but ordinary.

"Scripture was by far the best class I took sophomore year," said junior Taylor Reaves. "Her class was never boring, and she always found interesting ways

to teach material that otherwise would not be overly intriguing."

Her unique personality is also shown through her wardrobe choices.

"She has always had a very unique fashion style," said Reaves. "I will never forget her sweaters."

As one of the most legendary teachers to ever walk the halls of the school, Reed is admired and revered for the legacy she will leave behind.

"We are all going to miss Mrs. Reed," said sophomore Jared Ballard. "I think the freshmen will be pretty upset they will not have her next year."

Ballard is not the only student who will miss Reed.

Reed's past students also feel the loss of a beloved teacher.

"We all love Mrs. Reed, and we will all miss her," said junior Alex Hagen.

Even outside of the classroom, Reed continues to pass on her wisdom to the school body.

"Be proud of O'Gorman; it is a wonderful place," said Reed. "It has such a community, and its true family is within its students and parents."





PRESS PHOTO

Hugh Jackman once again assumes his role as Wolverine in *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*.

# Ten summer movies to capture audiences as school concludes

Matt Entringer  
Sports Co-Editor

## 1. *X-Men Origins: Wolverine* – May 1

Wolverine’s dark past is explored in his first solo adventure. His time in the Weapon X program as well as his youth are only a few of the things looked at in this highly anticipated summer blockbuster.  
**Reason to be Optimistic:** The cast includes Hollywood stars Liev Schreiber, Ryan Reynolds and Taylor Kitsch. Add that to the incredible trailer, and there is no doubt that *X-Men Origins* should be number one on this list.

## 2. *Transformers 2* - June 24

Shia LeBeouf is once again at the center of an intergalactic battle between man and machine.

## 3. *Terminator Salvation* -May 21

The newest entry in the popular *Terminator* franchise sets John Connor, played by Christian Bale, against the infamous Skynet.  
**Reason to be Optimistic:** With the largest budget of any *Terminator* movie to date, *Salvation*

not only plans to contend with the past films but also plans to surpass them altogether.

## 4. *Public Enemies* –July 1

Johnny Depp and Christian Bale team up for the real life account of John Dillinger and his gang of bank robbers.  
**Reason to be Optimistic:** Johnny Depp

## 5. *Star Trek* –May 8

J.J. Abrams (*Lost*) takes the directing reigns in this long awaited prequel. This time around, the early days of Captain Kirk and the crew of the *USS Enterprise* are explored.

## 6. *Harry Potter* –July 17

Once again Harry returns to the big screen, and this time, he begins to delve further into Lord Voldemort’s past.  
**Reason to be Optimistic:** The first five films racked up an astonishing \$1.4 billion; it would be unwise to bet against Mr. Potter in this sixth installment of one of Hollywood’s most successful franchises.

## 7. *G. I. Joe* –August 7

The vintage action toys jump

out of the toy box and on to the big screen in this highly anticipated summer movie.

## 8. *Year One* –June 19

Michael Cera and Jack Black team up as lazy cavemen for the summer’s most anticipated comedy.

## 9. *Land of the Lost* –June 5

This updated take on the 1970s TV series by the same name includes comedic stars Will Ferrell and Danny McBride.

## 10. *Angels and Demons* – May 15

Tom Hanks reprises his role as Dr. Robert Langdon in the sequel to Ron Howard’s 2006 film, *The Da Vinci Code*. This time around, Hanks is trying to prevent a terrorist attack on the Vatican.  
**Reason to be Optimistic:** *The Da Vinci Code* earned over \$200 million at the box office and was one of the top grossing movies of 2006. The cast has been largely revamped and now includes Ewan McGregor and Stellan Skarsgård.

# Actors Mortensen and Kitsch interview with Scroll reporter

Matt Entringer  
Sports Co-Editor

The Internet Movie Database (IMDB) is a movie Web site that helps film enthusiasts learn all they can about their favorite pastime. Recently, the Web site began to offer contact information for various A-listers in Hollywood.

*The Knight Scroll* interviewed some A-listers in Hollywood.

Viggo Mortensen is an Academy Award nominated actor who has starred in numerous films such as *Eastern Promises*, *Hidalgo* and the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. His next project is a film adaptation of Cormac McCarthy’s novel *The Road* in which he plays a father protecting his son in a post apocalyptic world.

Taylor Kitsch is a talented up-and-comer in Hollywood who has been in a handful of Hollywood movies and can be seen on *Friday Night Lights*, the television series. Starting May 1, he can be seen in one of this summer’s most anticipated movies, *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*, in which he plays the card throwing Gambit.

## Viggo Mortensen

*You’ve had the chance to work with many great actors over your career; were you ever excited to meet one in particular?*



Viggo Mortensen

I have had the good fortune to work with many talented actors over the years and have enjoyed adapting to their different approaches and styles in order to tell movie stories together. I do not know that there has been any actor in particular that I was

more excited to meet or work with although I do remember with fondness and appreciation the connections established with many men and women during the years I have spent in the movie business. Most recently, I can say that the working relationship that Kodi Smit and I established while making *The Road* was uniquely inspirational.

*Being a senior in high school, I was just wondering what your high school experiences were like?*

I guess I was a bit of a loner although I did not really feel excluded in any way. I did have friends and did interact on a social level to a degree - particularly in my capacity as swim team captain - but I was generally more comfortable keeping to myself. It could be that my having been raised in a different culture (mostly Argentina) until the age of eleven kept me from engaging and interacting socially as easily I might have if I had been raised in the United States and in northern New York State from infancy. Watertown High School is a very good public school. We had good teachers, and I have fond memories of my years as a student there.

*How do you feel about watching yourself on screen? Do you ever think that you could have done better, or are you mostly content with your work?*

I always feel that I could have done better. For example, even in my work for David Cronenberg’s *Eastern Promises*, a role for which I received several acting nominations and won a couple of prizes, there are several moments that I would love to have another

See Celebrities page 9

# Moberly describes her connection with O’Gorman’s land

Melissa Rushing  
Tanya Kapoor

Although she is Methodist and attended Washington High School, Mrs. Thelma Iverson Moberly is connected to O’Gorman High School in a very special way.

Moberly grew up on South Minnesota Avenue in the town of South Sioux Falls, then separate from what is known today as Sioux Falls. Her father, Mr. Sherman Iverson, farmed the land on which both O’Gorman High and Junior High are built.

“I can still remember being sunburned from farming that land,” said Moberly.

Iverson bought the forty acre piece of land during the Great Depression and grew potatoes, melons and hay on the land.

At that time, 41<sup>st</sup> Street was a gravel road, and the nearest landmarks were the Neptune Dance Hall and a small airport.

Moberly still remembers the tension that the family had when the mortgage payments were due. In 1957, Iverson could not farm any more because of illness, and he decided to sell that land to a Mr. Lee [first name unknown] who wanted to build an upscale housing development on what Iverson’s family had called “The Forty.”

“My dad thought that he would be a

happy man if he got \$1000 per acre for “The Forty,”” said Moberly. “Mr. Lee offered him more than that.”

The upscale housing development was never built because Lee moved to Florida; he sold the land to the Catholic Church.

“Mr. Lee called my dad to ask him if he had any problem with selling the land to the Catholic Church,” said Moberly. “My dad was Methodist, and there was some Catholic-Protestant tension at that time. But my dad said that he had no problems.”

The Church paid Iverson \$60,000 in cash for the land as Lee had bought the land on a deed and was paying Iverson in

installments.

“The income from “The Forty” was my mom’s and dad’s retirement money,” said Moberly. “It served its purpose for my mom and dad, and none of the seven [children] have ever felt that they should not have sold it when they did.”

“People think that we would be very wealthy if we would have hung on to that land,” said Moberly. “But my parents gave us what money could not buy; they gave us a loving family.”



## Prince 3-disc set shows comeback ambition

Zach Dresch  
Design Editor

Musical schizophrenia can be a blessing or a curse. For Prince's three new albums this year (*LOtUSFLOW3R*, *MPLSøUND*, and *Elixer*), this is certainly no curse.

Prince has been around for over three decades. He has become known for being one of the most diverse-sounding musicians around. More often than not, he releases an album yearly. He has certainly outdone himself this year.

Some of the best tracks on the album include Prince on lead guitar surrounded by impressive accompaniments. The "Crimson and Clover" cover is a fine example of Prince making a cover into his own song. His guitar work is quite impressive on this song, and it makes the song nearly addictive to the listener.

His ballads are also main highlights on this album. He actually makes the term "ballad" not seem like a bad thing with track

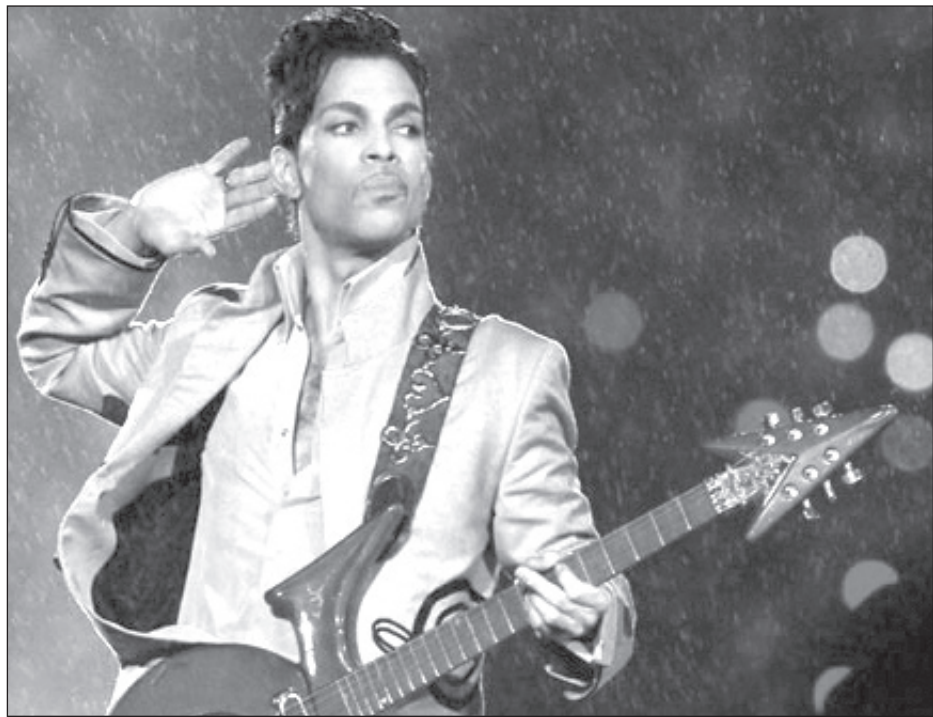
four entitled "4ever," a possible pun. The slow tempo song "Colonized Mind" is also a big highlight in Prince's guitar work.

The album starts off with a jazz-like sound in "From The Lotus..." an instrumental piece that grabs your attention despite the fact that it is jazz that is the main focus. Prince's creativity allows for him to perform any genre of music with appeal. He can do country or hardcore metal, and it would sound soulful somehow.

Prince's popular funk sound is heard in track six, "Feel Good, Feel Better, Feel Wonderful." It harkens back to the old days of *Purple Rain*, with a beat very similar to "When Doves Cry."

*MPLSøUND* is the other Prince album in the three-disc set. Despite its original sound, it is still a bit weaker than *LOtUSFLOW3R*. The album resembles, for the most part, Prince's Eighties material with the drum machine that made *Purple Rain* so popular.

See Prince page 10



PRESS PHOTO

Prince's 3-disc set was released as a Target exclusive on March 29, 2009.

## Students bond to chemistry with Benson

Maria Barnett  
Caitlin Woodard

The Chemistry room is home to test tubes, beakers and the genius behind it all: Mrs. Julie Benson.

Benson grew up in Spencer, Iowa, with the idea that one day, she would be a pharmacist. Science has always been her favorite subject because it came so easily to her. When she attended Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa, her plans definitely changed.

Taking many science classes in college had always been a part of her plan, but tutoring students was not. The most common subject she tutored was chemistry, and her tutoring skills edged toward teaching very quickly.

"I got offers to teach at O'Gorman and in Carroll, Iowa," said Benson. "I thought about Carroll and then decided to try Sioux Falls."

And the move has been a great fit. This is Benson's fourth year teaching at O'Gorman. She is currently working on her master's degree, which is taking up most of her time.

Other blessings are her husband, Michael, and baby girl, Megan.

"Once I get home around 5:30 or so, I usually forget about school and focus on my family," said Benson. "Megan definitely keeps me busy, though."



ADAM WILKA / KNIGHT SCROLL

Mrs. Benson teaches her chemistry class.

Then again, so do her students. Benson teaches six class periods every day. These classes include Chemistry, Advanced Chemistry, and Advanced Placement Chemistry.

"I love how compassionate faculty and students are," said Benson. "And the atmosphere of the students keeps me energized throughout the day."

Students mostly feel the same way about Benson.

Kiah Schaeftbauer, a junior, had Benson her sophomore year for Advanced Chemistry.

She said that Benson was a good teacher.

"She was always ready and willing to make sure you understood the material," said Schaeftbauer. "Plus, she was extremely nice and cared about us as students."

Benson's lessons must be carrying into students' futures. Schaeftbauer said that Benson really helps students to prepare for college because of her method of having the students

See Benson page 10

## Celebrities

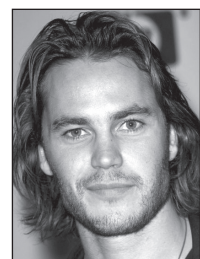
Continued from page 8

crack at. In my opinion, it can be healthy to reconsider work one has done in order to learn how to do a better job in the future with other roles -- that is if one can handle seeing their own work [*sic*] without getting too self-conscious or overly self-critical about it.

### Taylor Kitsch

*How did you get into acting?*

I have always loved acting, and have been intrigued by it--but I guess I finally took it seriously when I moved to New York to study. It is an amazing art; I could not see myself doing anything else.



Taylor Kitsch

*What do you like doing better TV or film, and why?*

I would say I enjoy doing film better---but the process of our show on FNL is unbelievably carefree. I feel this is the best way to do it---even though I understand the shots and time it takes for such special-effect gigs like *Wolverine*. So, I would have to stick with film, but only if it's done FNL style

*Since you will be playing Gambit in the upcoming X-Men Origins: Wolverine movie, I just thought I'd ask if you were a big fan of X-Men or comic books in general growing up?*

Oh yea! I was a fan, and definitely knew of Gambit/Wolverine. I never went to comic conventions or collected the books... I was more into sports hockey cards.

*Where do you see yourself going as an actor in the future? What type of work do you want to take on?*

My goals as an actor are to keep working and surrounding myself with the best. I would like to keep growing and challenging myself as a person and as an actor. I think it is best to be a little scared, but you have to take risks in order to do that.



# Photo Survey

What's your favorite summer activity?



**Cassie Wilka**  
"Sleeping in general."



**Chris Michels**  
"Chillaxing with the Schall twins because they light up my life."



**Lisa Peterson**  
"Always at the pool trying to get a tan."



**Gabe Oland**  
"Climbing."

## School should have postponed, set contingency plan for retreat

Shilpa Chandran  
Opinion Editor

Every year, the sophomore class looks forward to a day of service, community and, of course, no classes. This year, however, extenuating circumstances (namely the meteorologists) led to the unfortunate cancellation of the sophomore retreat.

No one controls the weather, but the real irritation was the manner in which the outcome of the retreat was handled. A different course could have been taken in order to find an agreeable outcome for all those involved.

First, the timing of when the decision was finalized and when the announcement was made was rather odd. The PA sounded during the end of third period, leaving the students to gripe about it all day.

A later announcement would have allowed the administration more time to view the weather and changes that were bound to

occur. The weather reports kept fluctuating, moving the time of the first snowfall from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. to 3 p.m. and so forth.

In case of severe weather, probably the one thing sophomores want the most is the retreat's postponement. Regrettably, the likelihood of this happening was slim this year because it is too large of an

**In case of a situation where the retreat was cancelled, there should have been a contingency plan in place from the beginning.**

event to reorganize.

There are too many people to call and too many different factors to handle. This all sounds reasonable, but another alternative would have been the best route for the school to

take.

The individuals in charge should have taken into account the possibility that the event might not happen as scheduled. In case of a situation where the retreat was cancelled, there should have been a contingency plan in place from the beginning.

A contingency plan is basically an alternative route in case the original event had to be cancelled.

A substitute date should have been set up beforehand, and all the right people should have been called. If this had been the case, no one would be inconvenienced. Rather, everyone involved would have been ready to just move it to another time.

Overall, there may have been rational reasons for the canceling of the retreat. However, there were also numerous other ways this problem could have been handled. The timing and a contingency plan are a few of the possible ideas that could have made for a different outcome.

## Prince

Continued from page 9

*MPLSoUND's* best track has to be "Ol' Skool Company," with Prince's voice in the manner of a chipmunk, but it fits the song well nonetheless.

The third disc, entitled *Elixer*, features Prince's protégé Bria Valente, incorporated with Prince's music.

This album is probably my least favorite, mainly because most of the songs are filler, but songs like "Everytime" and "2Nite" would be worth listening to more than once.

Her voice compliments the music very well, though, so overall, it would not be a bad thing to give this album a try once.

Overall, if you are a fan of any genre, this album is very entertaining in the sense that Prince's limits to music are next to none. Whenever a song sounds incredibly abnormal or strange and it is by Prince, it is not considered a shocking change in direction, and that is what makes Prince so original. He is not afraid to take risks, and this 3-disc set is no exception.

**Best Songs On *LOTUSFLOW3R*:**  
"Crimson & Clover", "Colonized Mind"

**Best Songs On *MPLSoUND*:**  
"U're Gonna C Me", "Ol' Skool Company"

**Best Songs On *Elixer*:**  
"Everytime", "2Nite"

## Interp

Continued from page 5

The interp team has done well at nationals in the past.

"We have had a National Champion, 2nd place in Drama, 2nd place in Duo, 6th place in Drama and several semi and quarter finalists," said Fester.

Nationals are very unpredictable because they are about talent and luck. There are 12 rounds of competition, judges from all over the nation and a variety of styles.

The interp team, in the past four years, has made the first cuts.

The cuts go from over 240 entries in each category, to the top 60, and then top 30, then top 14 and then top 6.

"We have then placed in the top 24 in other categories. Last year, Andy Thuringer got 11th in the nation in Expository which is a supplemental category," said Fester.

Fester and her assistant coaches plan on working with the competitors every day in May and June, so they are ready to go.

## Benson

Continued from page 9

somewhat teach themselves.

Aside from teaching, Benson loves to shop and read books in the summer. As far as a summer job goes, she has never had the opportunity to get one; she has always been too busy. First she got married, then bought a house, and finally prepared to have a baby. She said that there has not been any time for a job.

Benson hopes that she can impact students with her teaching.

"Stick with [chemistry] even though it is hard work," Benson said. "And always wear goggles."

If Benson could describe herself in one word, it would be dedicated. No matter the tough decisions and new opportunities she has encountered, Benson has always been happy with the outcome.

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## Funding

Continued from page 1

decision.

“[The decision] is not yet final,” said Rounds. “The losing parties are given time to submit objections, which the Judge will consider before issuing a final decision.”

The Judge has already explained her reasoning in a 312 page document. *The Knight Scroll* obtained the document, which highlighted important aspects of the case. Among many other things, Wilbur wrote that an adequate education does not have to “prepare one to find meaningful employment and qualify for higher education.”

“A student need not have scored ‘proficient’ or above on the DakotaSTEP test to have received the opportunity for an adequate education,” Wilbur wrote.

In order to prove that students were not being provided an adequate education, Abdallah brought several superintendents to testify.

“I brought in South Dakota witnesses who live with education everyday, but the state brought in people from as far away from South Dakota as you can get,” said Abdallah. “The state did not bring in a single superintendent. The state brought in employees of the Department of Education and out-of-state experts from New York, Florida and California.”

“The state presented Secretary of Education Rick Melmer and several members of his staff who testified about all of the services provided to local school districts,” said Long. “We called four national experts who examined the schools which were

the focus of the litigation.”

When listening to the claims of these witnesses, Wilbur wrote that superintendents that Abdallah brought “were advertising the quality of education offered” but “coming into court and saying the opposite.” Wilbur also wrote that the testimony the superintendents offered was “inherently biased.”

“Most districts have built-in pressures and demands which weigh heavily on administrators, including providing the best possible education to their students,” wrote Wilbur. “That pressure clearly affected the ability of the superintendents to give a fair and impartial opinion as to the adequacy of the education students were receiving in their districts.”

One such witness whose testimony, according to the Judge, was incredible was Faith Superintendent Mr. Mel Dutton. Faith’s school building was condemned in 2004.

“Our school buildings in Faith for the main courses we offer are 24 by 60 feet modular trailers. Our administrative office is a renovated shop building,” said Dutton. “I was disappointed when the Judge said that the six superintendents were not credible witnesses. Who would know more about education’s status in a school than the school leader?”

“Faith is attending school in mobile classrooms. The superintendent called them ‘trailer houses,’” said Long. “A minimum amount of funding is necessary, but beyond the minimum, more money does not necessarily produce better students. For example, Faith School District in 2007 spent \$6,771 per pupil and achieved average scores of 81.3% in reading and 79.5% in math. The same year, White River School



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The buildings of the Faith School District were a main issue in the lawsuit against school funding.

District spent \$9,716 per pupil and averaged only 62.5% in reading and 43.1% in math.”

Abdallah, however, thinks that the state’s educational system ought to be measured in college retention rates and an education’s well-roundedness.

“According to the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), a national data source that was relied upon by the state at trial, SD is now 48th in the nation in the percentage of college freshman who enroll at a four year university anywhere in the country and are capable of surviving until their sophomore year,” said Abdallah. “School goes beyond just math and reading. Many schools have had to cut programs, and many cannot afford programs like drama, debate, home ec. and shop. These programs make our students

well-rounded, and college requires students who are well-rounded.”

Besides the debate about test scores, the lawsuit also concerned the condition of school buildings.

“The lack of facilities has not hurt Faith at least insofar as test scores are concerned,” said Long.

“In terms of school conditions, the state told Faith, ‘It is your fault, and it is not that bad.’ I disagree. Faith does not have a sufficient tax base to generate revenue,” said Abdallah. “Also, there was gripping testimony. Students were crammed in and had trouble concentrating. Students were ashamed to go to the bathroom because you could hear people going to the bathroom. Students were called ‘trailer trash’ by other students. The low self esteem was beginning to show itself in poorer test scores.”

Also, the effect of teachers’ salaries and availability was

discussed.

“[Our witnesses] testified that teachers’ salaries are competitive to [those of] similar occupations in South Dakota and that South Dakota teachers are not leaving South Dakota ‘en masse’ as the Plaintiffs claim,” said Long.

“Between 1995-2000 (the most recent data available), South Dakota lost a staggering 106% of all teachers under the age of 25 to other states,” said Abdallah.

Although the Judge has issued a decision, the lawsuit over school funding is not over. Abdallah has said that it is his intention “at this point to appeal this decision” to the South Dakota Supreme Court.

If appealed, this case would be the first school funding case that the Supreme Court decides.

## Lockdowns

Continued from page 1

“The safety of our students and staff is our first priority,” said Mr. Kyle Groos. “We would rather err on the side of safety.”

In order to secure the school during any lockdown, a command center is established outside of the school so that the police can have a control point.

Also, if the high school goes into lockdown, so does the junior high and vice versa.

The administrative office has to go into lockdown. The lockdown policies also make sure that every student in the building is in a secure place. The male and female teachers nearest to the bathrooms are responsible for bringing students into their classrooms. However, if students knock on teachers’ doors during a lockdown, teachers are not supposed to let them enter.

“The reason [for that policy] is that you need to protect who you have in the classroom,” said Groos. “You may not know who is involved or who is an innocent bystander.”

Last year, a teacher who only taught during the afternoons was arriving to school during the

lockdown. Mrs. Angie Soukup came into an eerily quiet school building.

“After I entered, I discovered that the school was dark and really quiet,” said Soukup. “When I knew what was going on, I went into lockdown in my office. At the end of the lockdown, I told the administration that there has to be some way that people outside can know that the school is in lockdown.”

The method of communication between the staff and the administration during last year’s lockdown was email. With the new building, call buttons will be used in order to check each classroom.

Despite better technology, there are still challenges. If a lockdown occurred during lunch periods, then students in the cafeteria would have to be brought to a secure location. Also, Groos said that if a lockdown occurs before or after school, the administration will need to implement the lockdown “as fast as we can.”

This year, safety has gained increased attention because of the administrative office’s location and because of three open entrances: G-Wing, the Cafeteria (Entrance B), and the Activities Office (Entrance C). Such a situation, however, will

only last until this semester is over.

“Our goal is to have one controlled entrance,” said Groos. “Before construction, we had only one [door open].”

Unlike last year, staff members have to carry keys instead of cards in

“The safety of our students and staff is our first priority. We would rather err on the side of safety.”

- Kyle Groos

order to enter the school building.

Next year, cards will be used to enter the building. Sixteen cameras will be added, giving the school a total of 32 cameras. Also, the administration will be able to see the front door. Still, lockdown drills will be important to the school.

“We have drills for a reason,” said Groos. “When a situation or threat arises, our responses and actions need to be second-nature to us.”

The necessity for sound lockdown procedures was realized after Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold

killed twelve students and one teacher in Columbine High School. After the shootings, Klebold and Harris took their lives.

“[The tragedy] not only affected the 13 victims and their families, but also the entire community of Littleton,” said Reeves. “The school community heard from people around the world who were touched by the events of that day.”

In response to the tragedy, the State of Colorado released the Columbine Commission Report.

The Report reviewed Columbine’s response to the tragedy as well as law enforcement’s. There was a school resource officer on-duty at Columbine on the day of the shootings, but he was outside the school.

The medical assistance received was poor: teacher Mr. Dave Sanders bled to death before assistance was provided three hours later.

There was no actual lockdown; students fled the cafeteria and hid underneath the library tables. The surveillance cameras of Columbine also captured Klebold and Harris, but the police took several hours to secure the building.

“What has changed is the way law enforcement handles active shooting

incidents,” said Reeves. “In the past, law enforcement waited for back-up to assess the situation before entering a school, but now they are trained to immediately enter and confront the shooter.”

The SWAT Team’s response time was 45 minutes. The Commission noted the lack of a command center, the lack of police action and the lack of communication.

The Commission also mentioned the victims and their families.

“The deaths of so many school children and their teacher marked a tremendous loss of innocence in America, and their memories must not be forgotten,” said Colo. Gov Bill Ritter. “This event had a resounding impact throughout the state and nation as children and parents lost their sense of security and safety within their own communities.”

In order to honor the victims, there was a candlelight vigil planned at the park adjacent to the school on Sunday, April 19. On Monday, April 20, there was an hour-long ceremony near the Columbine Memorial that was planned by the families of the victims. Columbine High School was closed on April 20.



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